

Weldon Spring, Missouri, Site



DOE's Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project was conducted for remediating a portion of a former TNT production plant and a former uranium refinery. Surface remediation activities concluded in 2001 with the completion of a 45-acre on-site engineered disposal cell. A 150-acre prairie was planted surrounding the disposal cell to provide effective erosion control and act as a sustainable landscape. Long-term surveillance and maintenance activities at the site were officially transferred to LM in FY 2004.

The Weldon Spring site is located in St. Charles County, within the St. Louis, Missouri, metropolitan area (population 3 million), one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. This unique location, along with DOE's close relationship with surrounding state and Federal land owners, created a need for innovative solutions to long-term surveillance and maintenance issues at the site. Through a Secretarial proclamation, a plan was established for development of a comprehensive public involvement and education program.

In August 2002, the Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center opened to the public with exhibits about the history of the area and the remediation work that was completed, and a site information repository that is available to visitors. In addition, the Hamburg Trail for hiking and biking was constructed as a joint DOE and Missouri Department of Conservation effort. A ramp and viewing platform with informational plaques were constructed on the disposal cell to provide an additional mechanism for public education. Through FY 2008, more than 77,000 community members have visited the site or received site information through community outreach by Interpretive Center staff.



An Interpretive Center staff member conducts a scavenger hunt.

Science-oriented educational programs that directly relate to past remediation activities and present long-term surveillance and maintenance issues have been developed and are presented to St. Louis area school groups and other community-based organizations. Community perception of the Interpretive Center has been very positive.

Other innovative approaches have been developed to address daily maintenance issues at the site and promote beneficial community reuse of the property. Approximately 30,000 square feet of the former administration building has been transferred to Lindenwood University for establishment of a satellite college campus. Lindenwood is providing basic maintenance and paying utility costs.

A volunteer program addressing maintenance of the native plant gardens surrounding the Interpretive Center currently has approximately 25 volunteers. A second volunteer group of prairie ecosystem experts has been providing regular consultation for the past five years to assist the site in long-term management of the established prairie surrounding the disposal cell.

Public support and community involvement at the site is strong. It is expected that continued public education in this manner will serve to strengthen the institutional control commitments at the Weldon Spring site.